GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1245
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2000
PAKISTANI VESSEL APPREHENDED BY COAST GUARD
DINSHA J. PATEL

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Pakistani vessels have recently been apprehended by the Indian Coast Guard or Navy off the sensitive Lakshadweep Coast;

(b) if so, the details of each of such incidents during each of the last three years along with the country to which they belong;

(c) whether the Pak vessels were carrying ISI agents too; if so, the facts of the case; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to step up vigilance along the coast line including Gujarat?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) & (b): Coast Guard has apprehended four Pakistani vessels along with 49 persons on 12.2.2000 in the area off the Lakshadweep Group of islands. The apprehended vessels and persons were escorted to Marmagao Port and handed over to local police.

In the preceeding three years (January 1997 to December 1999), 13 boats with 64 crew members were apprehended in the Lakshadweep islands. The details are as under:-

Year	No.of Boat	No.of crew	Nationality
1997			
1998	06	28	Sri Lankan
1999	07	36	Sri Lankan

(c) The interrogation of the arrested persons by a joint team of Police, intelligence and security officials has not revealed that these persons are ISI agents.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to part (c) above.

(e) Indian Navy along with Coast Guard conducts regular surveillance operations of the coast as also in the island territories of Andaman & Nicobar islands and Lakshadweep. Enhanced vigilance along the Gujarat Coast is also being maintained.